

**Claims:**

1. A handle assembly comprising a handle, a handle spigot to which the handle is attached, biasing means to bias the handle to a naturally closed position, an  
5 operating plate which is rotatable by the handle spigot, a mounting stock, and a housing, the spigot, biasing means, operating plate and a majority of the mounting stock being positioned within the housing, the mounting stock being securable to the housing to hold all the components within the housing.
- 10 2. The handle assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the handle comprises a lever handle that may be a left-hand leave the handle or a right-hand lever handle.
3. The handle assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the handle spigot  
15 comprises a head portion and an elongate tail portion, the head portion adapted to fit to the handle.
4. The handle assembly as claimed in claim 3, wherein the head portion is angled and fits within a socket or recess in the handle.
- 20 5. The handle assembly as claimed in claim 3, the tail portion is substantially tubular or cylindrical in configuration and has a length of between 10-100 millimetres and a diameter of between 4-20 millimetres, and has an internal configuration to engage with a conventional spindle.
- 25 6. The handle assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein the tail portion is provided with engagement means to engage with or to the operating plate.
7. The handle assembly as claimed in claim 6, wherein the tail portion has  
30 a slot/groove/recess to engage with a projection on the operating plate, or the tail portion is provided with a projection and the operating plate is provided with a corresponding slot/groove/recess.

8. The handle assembly as claimed in claim 3, wherein the biasing means comprises a spring which extends about the tail portion of the handle spigot and will have means to engage with a stop provided in the housing and engagement means provided on the operating plate to bias the spigot (and therefore the handle) to a naturally closed position.

9. The handle assembly as claimed in claim 1, including a mounting plate which comprises a disk like member formed with a central opening containing engagement means to engage with the handle spigot.

10. The handle assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mounting stock comprises an end member which at least partially passes into the housing.

11. The handle assembly as claimed in claim 10, wherein the mounting stock is provided with at least one fixture opening to enable the mounting stock to be secured to a mortise lock, a tubular latch or other locking or latching member.

12. The handle assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a substantially hollow cylindrical barrel which has an inner end which is substantially open and an outer end which is formed with a bore, whereby the inner end, in use, fits over the mounting stock, and the handle spigot passes at least partially through the bore in the outer end, the housing being attached to the mounting stock.

13. A lock or latch including a handle assembly as claimed in claim 1.